



february 8, 2015

hartford street zc news

FEBRUARY 11, 2015 @ 7pm- hszc annual member meeting (for 2014)*from the board of directors:**Dear Sangha (hszc community) Friend,**We hope this finds you doing well.**HSZC is expanding the membership of its Board of Directors, and seeking board members both inside & outside of our immediate 'temple family.'**This coming Wednesday (February 11) at 7 p.m., we'll hold our annual Board meeting; it's an opportunity for those interested in participating to observe, and 'meet and greet.'**Our sangha and friends have a wide and varied depth of experiences across it's membership, so I'm making a sales pitch to you...**HSZC is an active, intimate temple with 5 full time residents and twice daily zazen and service. 2015 holds an ambitious agenda for us; a nascent capital campaign, plans for a symposium to mark the 25th anniversary of our founder- Issan Dorsey's- passing and celebrating the ongoing practice today, expanding our relationship to Maitri Compassionate Care, etc. We also host Meditation in Recovery (MIR) on Fridays, HIV and HIV Caregiver's meditation groups, and monthly Women's and Men's MIR evenings.**Being a board member is a very meaningful way to 'practice in the world.' We care deeply about Issan-ji, and we all work with the 'primary purpose' of it's well-being as our intention.**So, think about being part of the HSZC Board of Directors: we'd be grateful to welcome you. And come visit this Wednesday, 11 February, at 7 p.m.**In gassho,**Hartford Street Zen Center Board of Directors*

“These are the last words of the Great Teacher Shakyamuni Buddha, the ultimate admonition of the Mahayana teaching. He said at midnight of the fifteenth day of the second month, **‘Monks, always endeavor wholeheartedly to search for the way of liberation. All things in the world, whether they are in motion or not, are insecure and bound to decay. Now,**

**public schedule****mondays**

*7:00 am zazen

*7:40 am morning chanting service

*last monday of each month, no morning schedule

6:00 pm zazen

6:40 pm evening chanting service

tuesdays - fridays

6:00 am zazen

6:40 am kinhin (walking meditation)

6:50 am zazen

7:20 am chanting service

7:40 am soji (brief temple cleaning)

all of you be still and do not speak. Time is passing and I am going to cross over. This is my last admonition to you.' Without expounding dharma any further, the Buddha entered pari-nirvana.

All disciples of the Buddha should study this teaching. Those who don't learn or know about it are not his disciples. Indeed,



this is the Tathagata's treasure of the true dharma eye, the wondrous heart of nirvana. However, there are many who do not know about this teaching, as there are few who have studied it. Many may have been confused by demons, and those who have few wholesome conditions from

the past do not have the opportunity to see or hear this teaching.

In the Ages of True Dharma and Imitation Dharma, all disciples of the Buddha knew about this teaching and practiced it. But nowadays, less than one or two out of a thousand monks seem to know about it. How regrettable! The world has declined since those times. While the true dharma prevails in the billion worlds and the Buddha's pure teaching is still intact, you should immediately practice it without negligence."

[From Dogen Zenji, Shobo Genzo, Eight Awakenings of Great Beings ed. Kazuaki Tanahashi](#)

6:00 pm zazen
6:40 pm chanting service

thursdays study hour 7:30pm

saturdays

6:30 am zazen
7:10 am chanting service
7:25 am soji
8:30 am drop-in instruction
9:25 am zazen
10:15 am dharma talk
11:00 am refreshments/social*

** if a ceremony applies it will occur before social time*



february 7 2015 - tea, cookies and socializing post dharma talk

words from our Abbot: Rev. Myō Lahey

...observing the world or reality in the unfolding truth is zazen and it's also liberation. We may still think that zazen is something that leads to liberation and we think that because well, it's one of those things you hear. If you practice you will obtain liberation. But this is thought to be a rather narrow view. After all, there isn't really any one to obtain liberation. And liberation itself is kind of a fiction. Instead, to see and indeed experience the person as process is ongoing liberation.

Finally, that understanding will encompass others and also things; what we encounter and what we conjure as objects in the universe is also process, and inseparable from the process that we label person. So in this neck of the woods anyway the practice is to align our life, live our life in accord with this compelling and quite radical view of reality. Now it's a little eerie, during my illness which wasn't too severe, I was trying to remind myself, to in a way, sit zazen while lying in bed or coughing my head off, whatever I was doing. That is to surrender the view of person as entity.



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Let that be supplanted by the actual experience of person as process, life as process, and reality as process. This was a good practice.

My notion is that as Shakyamuni approached his own demise he was practicing in a similar way. I was reading in the Mahaparinibbana Sutta, the pali text version of the nirvana story, all kinds of teachings, anecdotes, quotable quotes, and so forth...As you know his last teaching is about how you should be a lamp unto yourself. The actual word he used, *vīpa* or *dipa* in Pālī, could also mean island. The translator, Maurice Walsh, advises us not to try and nail down which one it was because there is really no way to tell. Both suggest that the locus of effort even though it includes everyone else and everything else is here. Buddha says, don't put another head on top of yours, even mine. Don't walk around with a Buddha head floating above you...He advised all of us not to do that. Be your own light.

[hszc dharma talk 02 2010](#)



upcoming events:

dharma talks @10:15am, saturdays

- **Myō Lahey** - feb 21,28; mar 7,14
- **Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock** - mar 28, may 23,jul 25
- **guest speakers** - **Ryuei, Michael McCormick** - feb 14;
Renshin Bunce - mar 21; **Konin Cardenas** - apr 18; **Fugan, Eugene Bush** - may 9; **Laura Burges** - jun 20; **Anshi Daigi, Zachary Smith** jul 11 & sept 19; **Laura Burges** - oct 17;
Fugan, Eugene Bush - nov 14; **Ryuei, Michael McCormick** - dec 12

members annual meeting (in lieu of this month's board of directors meeting) - wed., february 11 @ 7pm - this is an opportunity to get an update on the state of things at hszc, its board and their work. also if you are a member and interested, a chance to join our board of directors and discuss other significant needs or goals for hszc.

sangha council - sat., february 14

Parinirvana - ceremony roughly 11am on sat., february 14: the Buddha is said to have achieved [Parinirvana](#), or complete [Nirvana](#), upon the death of his physical body.

Chinese new year! - sat., february 21 - join us for our (past few years) tradition of chinese new year treats and to offer [joss paper](#) to loved ones in the realm(s) beyond. we will additionally say good-bye to the temple's [daruma](#) and offer gratitude for his successful goals from the prior year of the horse; and welcome this year, the year of the goat or ram and a new daruma with new goals for this year!

full moon ceremony - saturday, march 7 - the full worm moon, as the temperature begins to warm and the ground begins to thaw, earthworm casts appear, heralding the return of the robins. the more northern tribes knew this moon as the full crow moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter; or the full crust moon, because the snow cover becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. the full sap moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. to the settlers, it was also known as the lenten moon, and was considered to be the last full moon of winter.

study hour - thursdays @7:30pm: the Vimalakīrti Sūtra. we can share books for anyone who wants to join in, or feel free to purchase a copy and join us (many are very low cost online, we focus on [Dr Thurman's version](#)). check our twitter page for any last minute changes in schedule.

closure & schedule changes

no morning (only) zazen & chanting/service on the last monday of every month. please check [our twitter](#) page for last minute changes

practice discussions are available with Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock. please contact him directly or email: hszc108@yahoo.com to request to schedule time.

from the hartford sangha library: a featured new book -

The Zen Teaching of Homeless Kodo (2014 publication)

by Kosho Uchiyama and Shohaku Okumura

Synopsis:

Abandon your treasured delusions and hit the road with one of the most important Zen masters of twentieth-century Japan.

Eschewing the entrapments of vanity, power, and money, "Homeless" Kodo Sawaki Roshi refused to accept a permanent position as a temple abbot, despite repeated offers. Instead, he lived a traveling, "homeless" life, going from temple to temple, student to student, teaching and instructing and never allowing himself to stray from his chosen path. He is responsible for making Soto Zen available to the common people outside of monasteries.

His teachings are short, sharp, and powerful. Always clear, often funny, and sometimes uncomfortably close to home, they jolt us into awakening.

Kosho Uchiyama expands and explains his teacher's wisdom with his commentary. Trained in Western philosophy, he draws parallels between Zen teachings and the Bible, Descartes, and Pascal. Shohaku Okumura has also added his own commentary, grounding his teachers' power and sagacity for the contemporary, Western practitioner.

Experience the timeless, practical wisdom of three generations of Zen masters.

HIV meditation group; weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!

thursdays & fridays

10:30am zazen

11:00am garden socializing

meditation in recovery; weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction
fridays, 7:30pm - 9pm

(women only) **meditation in recovery**; monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction.

first thurs, 7:15pm -8:45pm

please contact us for rental space as well, events, ceremonies performed by a zen priest - weddings, memorials, coming of age & baby naming events.

find other sf bay area lgbtqqi events [here](#) - or - [here](#)
national, worldwide & other holidays [here](#) (*warning* some are pretty silly)

**Abbot, hartford street zen center --
- Reverend Myō Lahey ---**



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personal news, artwork &
photography
for future newsletters to
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*May this newsletter find you well
& equanimous! _/_*

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